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preserving to the accused the rights given him by the Constitution is considered, are comparatively few. The simpler forms that will sooner or later supersede in all States the present archaic ones are illustrated by reference to the revised indictments already in use in New York and Massachusetts.

H. A. B.

LE POUVOIR EXÉCUTIF AUX ETATS-UNIS. Par M. Adolphe de Chambrun. Revue, corrigée et augmentée avec préface de M. Pierre de Chambrun. Paris: A. Fontemoing, Éditeur. 1899. pp. xvi, 337.

This extensive monograph was first published in 1873 — about the time of the Third Republic in France — with the intention of familiarizing the French people with the system of the American executive. It is then essentially an exposition and only secondarily a critical study of our government. It has been little known in the United States, and the present re-edition is practically a re-introduction of the book. It is on the whole a sound exposition of the subject — careful, minute and admirably clear, full of historical explanation. In only one place, in regard to the function of the judicial power to adjudge legislation unconstitutional, is positive error noticed. The defects of the book are the seemingly almost insuperable ones which beset a continental writer who deals with the American or English systems of government. The author shows a constant tendency to attribute the form of the executive power far too much to abstractly rational ideas, to reduce to formulæ, to “neglect what he cannot express neatly,” — or from the other aspect, he failed to comprehend completely the flexibility of our institutions, he put too little emphasis on the growth of the power of the central government and felt too little the power of the states; his system of checks balances over nicely, he missed the rough-hewn, elastic quality of the system.

Another Frenchman writing a few years later, Boutmy in his “*Études de Droit Constitutionnel*,” pointed out most acutely the often illogical and seemingly unworkable nature of parts of our system, but he appreciated another fact, that these clumsy parts of our machinery were often perfectly serviceable. It is just that sort of thing that Chambrun failed to do, and on the whole his book teaches us little. Yet in this very abstract rationalism the author gained at least one thing, — an uncommon conception of the immense scope of the executive power. His chapter on the transformation of that power during the administration of Lincoln is, to the ordinary American, most interesting. And the last chapter, where he predicts that in case the United States acquire new territory inhabited by races different from her own, the power of the executive will be wonderfully augmented, has been proven by recent events.

J. P. C. JR.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE, PROMISSORY NOTES, BANK-NOTES AND CHEQUES. By Sir John Barnard Byles. Sixteenth Edition. By Maurice Barnard Byles and Walter John Barnard Byles. London: Sweet & Maxwell, Lim. 1899. pp. lxx, 582.

The leading, though not the earliest, English text book on the law of Bills and Notes has passed into its sixteenth edition. It is difficult to recognize full grown in the present stout volume the modest little original published in 1829. That first edition did not aim to compete with the earlier works of Bayley and of Chitty, first published in 1789 and 1799 respectively, but supplied the long-felt want of a brief summary of the